

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending. Claims 17-24 have been cancelled. Claims 3 and 11 have been amended to correct minor informalities.

Claims 1, 9, and 17 are rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of double-patenting over claims 1, 8, and 15 of co-pending application 11/381,222. A terminal disclaimer has been filed herewith. It is respectfully requested that this rejection be removed.

Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,297,249 to Bernstein. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and believe that the claims as originally filed are not anticipated by Bernstein. However, to move the case to allowance, the following amendments are presented to clarify the intended thrust of the claims.

Independent claims 1 and 9 have been amended to more particularly point out that users may utilize a web browser to interact with the web-accessible database over a public network. Moreover, the independent claims have been amended to claim that the content stored in the web-accessible database is added by users over the public network. As can be seen from FIGS. 2D-2T, users may interact with the online database through a conventional web browser, and no additional software is needed.

The independent claims have also been amended to more particularly recite that the network over which the interactions are being performed is a public network, such as the Internet. Additionally, the independent claims have been amended to more particularly out that the search results are presented to a user as an HTML-formatted web page.

The present invention as now claimed provides for an environment in which users may post content that is then published over the public network and readily available to be searched and view by other users of the public network. The present invention as now claimed does not require any software be installed on the user's machines, as users interact directly with the online database through any machine running a standard web browser. These interactions include the ability for one user to post content directly to the web-accessible database using just a web browser. This content is made available for searching and retrieval over the public network by other users. Applicants thus believe that the process as claimed is therefore a significant advance over the state of the art in 1995, and request reconsideration for this reason.

It is respectfully submitted that the cited reference of record does not teach or suggest allowing a user to interact with an online database as claimed. It is respectfully requested that the pending case be reconsidered in light of these Remarks and Amendments and moved to allowance.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this application or this response, the Examiner is personally invited to telephone the undersigned at 775-848-5624.

Respectfully submitted,  
SIERRA PATENT GROUP, LTD.

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